

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2020

Contact: Jessica D'Ambrosio, jessica_dambrosio@fws.gov

Second annual “Desert Tortoise Week” expands across Southwest Experience educational events and conservation activities throughout the Colorado and Mojave deserts, October 5-11, 2020.

Palm Springs, *Calif.* — Local, federal and nonprofit organizations throughout the Colorado and Mojave deserts are coming together to raise awareness and promote recovery of one of the desert's most iconic species – the desert tortoise – through a series of events in October.

The Mojave desert tortoise was listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened in 1990 due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and predation. The tortoise faces many threats, but you can be part of the species' recovery. Learn more about actions that can be taken to help them during “Desert Tortoise Week,” scheduled Oct. 5-11.



Juvenile desert tortoise (photo: Joanna Gilkeson/USFWS)

Schedule of events for Desert Tortoise Week, 2020:

Online Fall Native Plant Sale, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 1 - October 31

Join the Mojave Desert Land Trust for an online plant sale and create a tortoise habitat in your own garden.

Location: online

Email mary@mdlt.org for more information.

The Desert Tortoise, Their Environment, and You

October 5, 8:00 am

The Mojave Desert Land Trust hosts *A Desert Indoors* virtual lesson plan that will engage youth and families. Students will learn about challenges faced by the tortoise and what they can do to help make a difference in their community.

Location: virtual

Email mary@mdlt.org for more information.

Tortoise Scavenger Hunt

October 5 - October 11, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Participate in a self-led scavenger hunt to win prizes and enjoy wildlife exhibits.

Location: The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, 47900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert, CA

Email aocanas@livingdesert.org for more information.

Native Plant Sale, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 5 - October 11, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Pick up some tortoise favorites at this native plant sale.

Location: The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, 47900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert, CA

Joshua Tree National Park: Desert Tortoise Week

October 5 - October 11

Check out Joshua Tree National Park online and learn how to help protect the desert tortoise.

Location: www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm

Email David_A_Larson@nps.gov or Michael_Vamstad@nps.gov for more information.

Drive-in Movie Screening of *Tortoise in Peril* and *The Birds*

October 7, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Enjoy educational films at The Drive-In Coachella Valley. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens will also have desert tortoise ambassadors to enjoy from a distance.

Location: Palm Springs Air Museum, 745 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA

Email aocanas@livingdesert.org or visit The Drive-In Coachella Valley online for more information.

Virtual Tortoise Talk, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

October 8, 2020, 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Join The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens on Zoom to hear commonly asked questions answered by Wildlife Biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Location: virtual

Email aocanas@livingdesert.org or visit the The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens online for more information.

Virtual Tortoise Talk, Mojave Desert Land Trust

October 9, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Chat with desert tortoise expert, biologist Kelly Herbinson.

Location: virtual Facebook event

Visit the Mojave Desert Land Trust Facebook page to register, and email mary@mdlt.org for more information.

Desert Wildlife Celebration

October 10, 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

While remaining in your car, receive free educational gifts and a boxed lunch while supplies last.

Location: Tortoise Rock Casino, 73829 Baseline Rd, Twentynine Palms, CA

Tortoise Presentation, Mojave National Preserve

October 11, 11:00 am – 11:30 am

Learn more about desert tortoises from the U.S. National Park Service.

Location: Meet on the porch at Hole in the Wall Visitor Center, 1 Black Canyon Road, Essex, CA

Email matthew_caire@nps.gov for more information.

Be sure to call ahead for current information. When attending an in-person event, maintain physical distancing and cover your face.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information about our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov/cno or connect with us via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Flickr](#).